

THE OCALA EVENING STAR

Volume III., Number 178

OCALA, FLORIDA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 1898

Price 5 Cents

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.

A Large Crowd Was Present Last Night at the K. of P. Entertainment at the Opera House.

Last evening was a red letter one in the history of Ocala Lodge No. 19 of the Knights of Pythias. The installation was of a public character. The opera house contained a large audience of our best and representative people, and the intellectual treat to which they were invited, and of which they partook with such great relish and appreciation, was supplied by Rev. W. W. DeHart of Tampa in his splendid lecture on the beneficent purposes and good work accomplished by this noble order.

The Metropolitan band played an introductory piece in fine style, when Mayor Bullock, who is a shining light in the order, introduced the speaker of the evening in a few appropriate words. The reverend gentleman is a cultured and fine speaker and delivered a lecture every word of which should appear in print, but we can only touch on its salient points, clothed in beautiful diction, striking illustrations and inspiring principles. Time would not permit him to deliver his lecture in full, but he received the closest attention for an hour, only broken by ripples of laughter as he varied his theme from lively to earnest and eloquent flights of oratory. He put himself en rapport with his listeners by telling the humorous bragging story of three little boys. One said: "My pa is a K. of H.," the second said, "Mine is a K. of P.," and the third remarked: "My pa is an all night knight." The speaker said if he went to saying all the good, true and convincing things about the order he could, he would be an all night knight Pythian. He said the order had a million members enrolled, of which 600,000 were in good standing, including a uniformed commandery of 30,000. They had 7,000 castle halls and spent annually \$2,000,000 in benevolent purposes. The order was organized in Washington in February, 1864. It was peculiarly an outgrowth of our government. Seven unknown men met and canvassed the question. It took root, but languished. Later it revived and within almost a quarter of a century it has attained its marvelous growth. He related the laughable construction often put on the three initials of the order, F. C. B., which stood for Friendship, Charity and Benevolence. He then told in a striking manner the old but ever beautiful story of Damon and Pythias, after which he spoke in touching words of the significance and power for good of pure friendship. He spoke of charity as defined by Paul. What a roast he gave the tattler, backbiter and slander-monger! It was so hot it would have scorched the hirsute covering of any person if any of that type were in the audience, but he didn't believe there were. He closed with remarks about unselfish, Christlike benevolence, with a sublime oration on the brotherhood of men and the fatherhood of God. For a moment you could have heard a pin drop, then the audience broke out in applause.

The following officers were then installed by Herbert Crook, deputy grand chancellor:

B. D. Hodge, P. C.; J. G. Ferguson, C. C.; M. J. Turner, V. B.; W. T. Frierson, prelate; H. M. Connell, M. of W.; J. R. DeVane, K. of R. and S.; D. E. McIver, M. of F.; S. T. Sistrunk, M. of E.; J. B. Watkins, M. at A.; T. J. Musselwhite, L. G.; M. E. Connell, O. G.

—For oysters cooked in all styles, try the Home Restaurant

News About Citra.

Will E. Nelson, a former Ocala type, but now assisting in working orange groves at Citra, has been in town a few days visiting friends. He said the impression prevails up there that the orange groves are not severely injured, and Chas. W. White has resumed work on his groves, feeling assured they are all right. He said the pinceries passed through the cold snap without any injury.

R. C. Douglas, a former merchant of Douglasville, a suburb of Citra, has built a store room near the depot and moved his stock into it.

A. Kells shipped half a box of tangerine oranges and received \$6 for them.

Tuesday the station agent got into an altercation, resulting in a knock down and a fine of \$2 and costs.

The \$35,000 residence formerly owned by Jas. A. Harris has been thoroughly renovated and Mrs. John Harris has opened it as a first-class hotel with bright prospects of doing a good business.

The most regretful man in Citra is Mine Host Pepper of the "hot tamale house" of the citrus city of Marion county. Several weeks ago Mr. Pepper, in an abstract state of mind, probably ruminating on the excellent patronage he would enjoy during the winter and the good times coming in Citra when every orange grove would blossom as the rose and bear golden fruit an hundred fold, retired without pulling down the blinds, hung his bifurcated garment, containing \$10, a new silk handkerchief and a jack knife, on the head board of his bed, wrapped the drapery of his couch around him and laid down to pleasant dreams. When he awoke next morning his pants were gone with their contents. Investigation revealed the fact that a "knight of the cross ties," attracted by the light in the room and a disrobing man, was drawn to the scene. His tracks were visible under the window and traced to the railroad track where he evidently sat on a rail and exchanged pants, for a pair of old, ragged ones were found. Since that fatal night no pants or their contents have returned to console the genial and agreeable host. The most unaccountable thing about Mr. Pepper's loss is not the pants and money that he regrets, but the absence of that Christmas "swipe" that causes him to bemoan an irreparable loss.

The Star learns with pleasure that John Kendig's grove, which Mr. Boring has in charge, is in splendid condition and withstood the cold snap in fine style. Considerable fruit was shipped from this grove this season.

In Olden Times

People overlooked the importance of permanently beneficial effects and were satisfied with transient action; but now that it is generally known that Syrup of Figs will permanently overcome habitual constipation, well-informed people will not buy other laxatives, which act for a time, but finally injure the system. Buy the genuine. Manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co.

Our capable foreman, Sim Lunmus, feels complimented to know that our esteemed weekly contemporary, the Banner, utilized his composite arrangement of the city clerk's financial report. The Star trusts it was of profit to the paper and of interest to its readers.

COTTON GROWING.

A Few Remarks on a Profitable Industry.

The growing of cotton in Marion county was about discarded as an industry when the great freeze of 1895 came and wiped out our orange groves. There were good reasons for this state of affairs. First came the orange industry boom with lands selling at fabulous prices and work plentiful at good wages. When this industry was successfully inaugurated and everything pertaining to it had settled down to an every day basis, along came the discovery of phosphate, which created a state of apparent prosperity and good times, that distanced anything that had ever taken place in our county or state. The result was that the general farmer, and especially our colored farmers and laborers, discarded growing cotton, abandoned their places and went into the mines, where work was plentiful and remuneration good. This industry, following the history of all other developments, found its natural level; wages fell; machinery taking the place of manual power, until want of work compelled many of the former colored mine hands to return to their homes and seek a living by "digging" it out of Mother Earth.

While many of our white farmers have grown more cotton since the freeze than for ten years previous, our colored population has contributed the larger part of the crop of 1897, which brought into the county \$30,000. Of this amount of money paid out, George Giles, the cotton dealer, in the LaFayette block, handled over \$8,000, and to him we are indebted for a few points, showing that while cotton growing by paid labor is not profitable there are hundreds of white and colored farmers who can make a comfortable living out of it by making cotton growing the money crop of their farms in utilizing the labor of their children.

Dolph Hagan, of Shady Grove, an industrious colored man with a wife and three children, grew and sold \$100 worth of cotton, while his neighbor, with a wife and four children, grew and sold his crop for \$130, raising besides this surplus crop, an abundance of corn, peas, sweet potatoes, etc., having a good and plentiful supply of food to make a crop in 1898.

Mr. Giles insists that what these and dozens of other colored farmers have done can be done by a hundred or more and by industry and careful cultivation, make a comfortable living and a little ready cash to meet the exacting demands of every day life.

Mr. Giles proposes to call a meeting of the yeomanry of the people of Marion county to discuss the question of growing cotton as a side issue and a ready money crop, and the great necessity of using fresh seed and careful cultivation.

To illustrate, Mr. Giles, by the way, grows cotton, too, and says he knows it netted him money. He took special pains with a patch which made a bale. It was sold and the commission man returned it as a beauty and allowed him 18 cents a pound for it, while the common run only brought 14 to 15 cents. Here, he said, is an impressive object lesson. It took no more labor to produce the bale of beauty cotton than it did a common bale, yet he received nearly \$20 extra for that package. But why repeat, it is the old story of a thing well done that brings its reward, no matter what the nature or kind. Thus, under the conditions named, Marion county can produce

Royal makes the food pure, wholesome and delicious.



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duce \$60,000 worth of cotton as easily as \$30,000 worth, and what a world of comfort it would bring to those making the effort. We know it means labor, sweat and fatigue, but what work don't demand this that commands success. In this life it is not what we want to do but what we can do.

A Good Omen.

We are pleased to learn that our enterprising fellow townsman, Herbert L. Anderson, has become the possessor of a substantial block of stock in the Ocala Driving Park Association. This would seem to indicate that the interests of the Silver Springs railroad, now being run by the Plant System for the benefit of tourists, is becoming identical with those of the driving park. The bicycle path is also being constructed to the springs, owing to the liberality of Mr. Plant, with a proposed spur to the driving park, all of which will give a chance for a long spin in either direction. Ocala's attractions are constantly growing, and we may yet hope to entertain an increasing crowd of visitors each season.

New Bank Opening.

J. K. Williams, agent for F. K. Gilmore & Co., bankers, has opened a temporary office in the northwest corner of the Ocala House block. This is a branch of the Jacksonville house which has \$500,000 capital. They will be ready for business Monday, Jan. 10. Just as soon as permanent and sufficient quarters can be obtained the firm will open a full fledged bank. We welcome the gentlemen to the Brick City.

Tax Notice.

The city tax books are now open for collection of 1897 city taxes. The books will positively close March 31st. Property owners are urged to make prompt payment.

W. W. CLYATT, JR.,
1wd. City Tax Collector.

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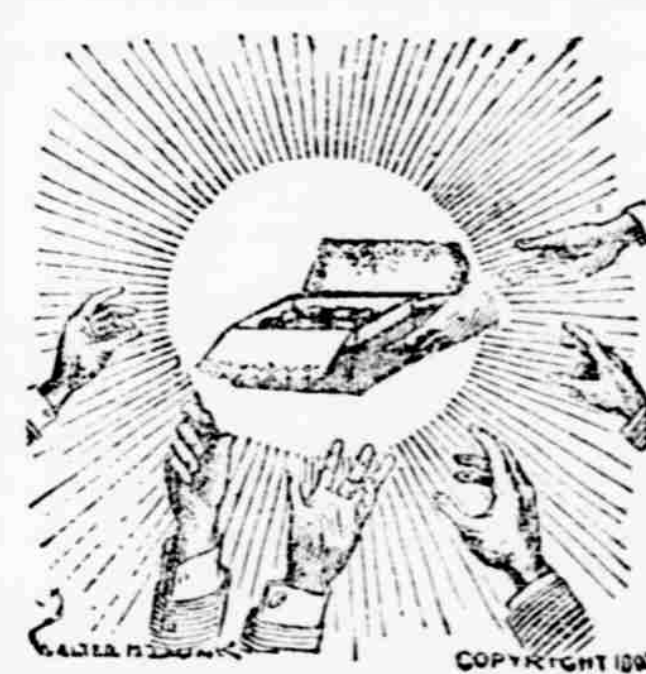
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J. T. Culpepper, mayor; A. H. Hansell, judge superior court; J. W. Reid, vice president Citizens' Bank; S. L. Hays, president L. N. bank; E. M. Smith, president Bank of Thomasville. And many others.

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